

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4 and 5 have been amended herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the particular configuration of the plurality of optical filters in accordance with the present invention. Support for such amendment is found, for example in Figs. 1 and 3 of the application and the description thereof.

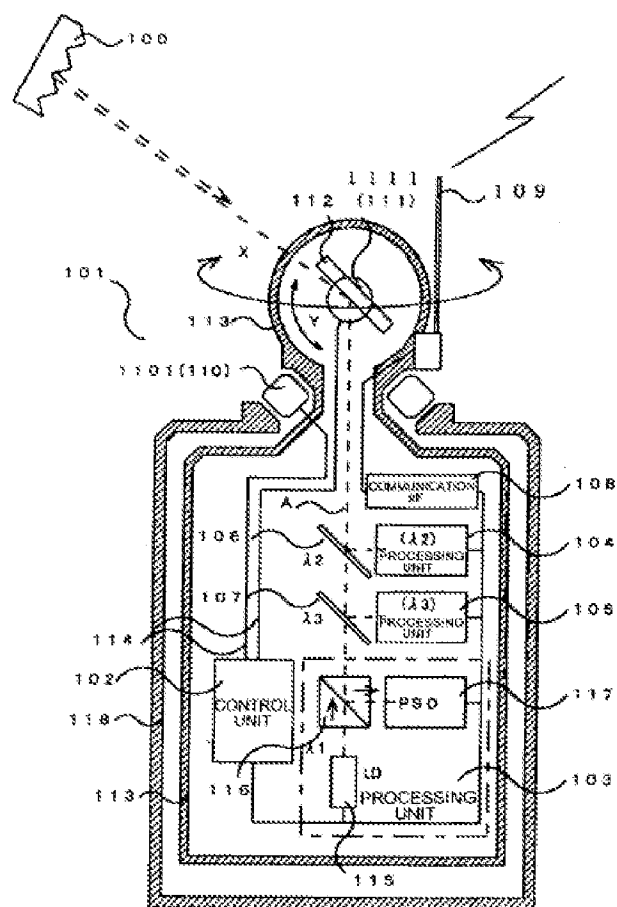
Figs. 4 and 5 have been amended to independent form.

No new matter has been added.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-13 UNDER 35 USC §102(e)

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) based on *Kalayeh et al.* Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite how the optical path means includes a plurality of optical filters. Each of the plurality of optical filters serves to combine a respective one of the laser beams output to the object from the plurality of laser beam generating means with the common optical path. In addition, each of the plurality of optical filters serves to separate the respective one of the laser beams returning from the object from the common optical path.



As exemplified in Fig. 1 of the present application (reproduced above), the laser measurement apparatus includes a plurality of optical filters 106 and 107. Each of the optical filters 106 and 107 serves to combine a respective one of the laser beams output to the object from the plurality of laser beam generating means with the common optical path. In addition, each of the plurality of optical filters 106 and 107 serves to separate the respective one of the laser beams returning from the object from the common optical path.

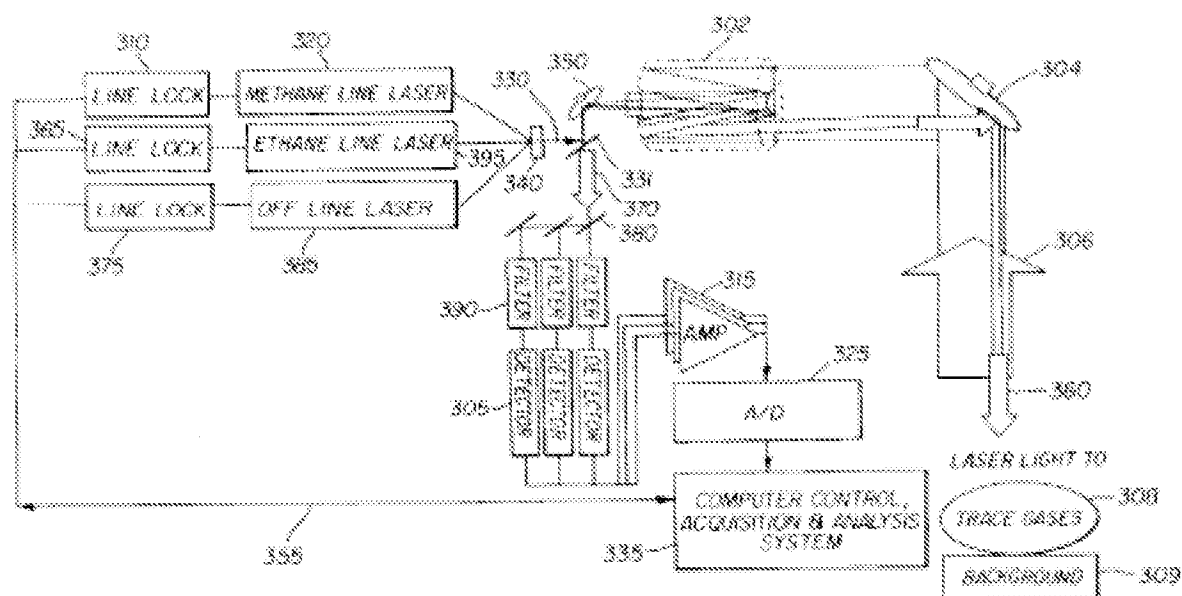


FIG 3

On the other hand, the system described in *Kalayeh et al.* (as exemplified in Fig. 3 reproduced above) does not use a plurality of optical filters which each serve to combine and to separate a respective one of the laser beams from the common optical path as recited in amended claim 1. As is shown in Fig. 3, a holographic grating 340 serves to combine the laser beams output to the object. In the meantime, filters 390 serve to separate the respective laser beams returning from the object. Applicants note that the same plurality of filters do not combine and separate a laser beam from the common optical path as recited in amended claim 1.

Regarding claim 4, this claim recites the aspect of one of the laser beams being used for tracking. The Examiner contends that *Kalayeh et al.* teaches such feature in Columns 6 and 8. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that such description does not relate to one of the laser beams being used for tracking. Rather, *Kalayeh et al.* is teaching that the laser beams are used for scanning and analyzing to produce two-dimensional gas-maps or images in units of concentration path-length. A scanning operation does not constitute a tracking operation as will be appreciated by those having ordinary skill in the art.

Regarding claims 5-8, this claim relates to the aspect of the different laser beams being used for measuring distances according to different measurement scales. Claims 5-8 recite computing a distance between the object and a reference position based on the output signals from each of the detectors.

The Examiner contends that claims 5-8 are taught in *Kalayeh et al.* in connection with the calculation of a concentration path-length (CL). However, such unit of measurement does not relate to a measure of distances for purposes of computing a distance between the object and a reference position based on the output signals. Rather, *Kalayeh et al.* is teaching measuring the concentration of a particular gas for a given path-length.

Regarding claims 9-13, the Examiner points to the optical fiber cable referred to at Column 13, lines 35-36 of *Kalayeh et al.* Unlike the present invention, however, *Kalayeh et al.* does not appear to contemplate the optical fiber carrying each of the plurality of laser beams as recited in the claims.

Accordingly, claims 1-13 are patentably distinguishable over the teachings of *Kalayeh et al.* Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

II. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, all claims 1-13 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Application No.: 10/823,166

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

/Mark D. Saralino/

Mark D. Saralino
Reg. No. 34,243

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The Keith Building
1621 Euclid Avenue
Nineteenth Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44115
(216) 621-1113